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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1957





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Chairman of the Council : Councillor T. H. Haseldine, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor J. M. Love

Councillors : ATTER, BUTTON, CAUSER, HIGBY,
NEWMAN, WILDMAN and WITHERIDGE.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., Col. I.M.S. (Retd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also the M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District).

Deputy M.O.H. — F. SEYMOUR, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.

HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. M. TUCKER, A.R.S.H.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District
of Wolverton**

May 27th, 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1957.

There was a total of 182 births during the year, showing an increase over the previous year. Nevertheless, the rate is still lower than the County rate and that for England and Wales.

Deaths have increased giving a corrected rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of the population. This is an increase of 2 points over the rate for the previous year. Of the total of 198 deaths, 42 were due to Cancer, and 103 to Heart and Allied Diseases.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, which was at the very satisfactory lower rate of 5.8 in 1956, jumped to 49.5 per 1,000 live births in 1957. There were 9 actual deaths in this group, 4 of them being under 4 weeks old.

In the realm of Infectious Diseases we had rather a worrying time towards the end of December and into January 1958, when a small outbreak of Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred in the New Bradwell area. In all there were 8 confirmed cases, 2 of whom were adults. Due to the speedy action of the General Practitioners concerned, in the diagnosis, isolation and notification of the cases, the outbreak remained small and circumscribed.

During the year Mr. A. Baker, Health Inspector, retired after many years of arduous and diligent service to the Council. All duties in the Health Department have now been taken over by Mr. D. Tucker who has performed them admirably.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. J. B. Harwood, and his staff.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

| VITAL STATISTICS | | | | for the year | 1956 | 1957 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|--------|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | | 4,699 | 4,699 |
| Population | ... | ... | ... | | 13,450 | 13,390 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | | | ... | | 4,587 | 4,591 |
| Rateable Value (1st April) | | | ... | £145,809 | | £135,920 |
| Sum represented by 1d. Rate | | | ... | £586 | | £541 |
| Rate per £1 | ... | ... | ... | | 20/6 | 22/8 |

Births

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Legitimate : Males | ... | ... | | 89 | 87 |
| Females | ... | ... | | 73 | 89 |
| Illegitimate : Males | ... | ... | | 4 | 4 |
| Females | ... | ... | | 6 | 2 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 Population | ... | | | 14.6 | 15.3 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 Population | | | | | |
| Bucks County | | | | 16.3 | 16.7 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 Population | | | | | |
| England and Wales | | | | 15.7 | 16.1 |
| Still Births | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 |

Deaths

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Males | ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 | 101 |
| Females | ... | ... | ... | ... | 81 | 97 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Population | ... | | | | 9.7 | 11.9 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Population | | | | | | |
| Bucks County | | | | | 9.9 | 9.7 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Population | | | | | | |
| England and Wales | | | | | 11.7 | 11.5 |
| Maternal Mortality | ... | ... | | | Nil | Nil |
| Maternal Mortality, | | | | | | |
| England and Wales | | | | | 0.56 | 0.47 |

Infantile Mortality

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|------|------|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per | | | | | | |
| 1,000 Live Births | ... | ... | ... | | 5.8 | 49.5 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per | | | | | | |
| 1,000 Live Births, Bucks County | ... | | | | 17.1 | 21.6 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per | | | | | | |
| 1,000 Live Births, England & Wales | | | | | 23.8 | 23.0 |

**PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF
DEATH**

| | | | | 1956 | | | 1957 | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|------|----|-----|
| | | | | M | F | T | M | F | T |
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis, other | ... | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meningococcal Infections | ... | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancer | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 14 | 30 | 26 | 16 | 42 |
| Leukaemia | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | ... | | | 10 | 18 | 28 | 9 | 15 | 24 |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 29 | 59 | 33 | 40 | 73 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | . | | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | . | | | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | ... | | | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital Causes | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Accidents | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| All other Causes | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| | | | | 80 | 81 | 101 | 161 | 97 | 198 |

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Laboratory Services.

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Samples for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. Ambulance Services.

These services are administered by the County Council, and are now radio controlled from Aylesbury with sub-stations throughout the County. The Wolverton area is covered by Bletchley sub-station. British Railways also maintain an ambulance at Wolverton Works.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

Clinics are held twice monthly in New Bradwell and Stony Stratford and three times monthly at Wolverton. These clinics are attended by Nurses, Health Visitors and a doctor, and immunizations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough were carried out in addition to routine inspections. The total number of attendances by children was 3,797.

A word of thanks and praise must be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time in helping to organise these clinics.

4. Chest Clinic.

The clinic continues to do excellent work in the field of prevention and control of Tuberculosis. Sessions are held twice weekly at The Meacham Clinic and are under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician.

5. Physiotherapy Clinic.

Administered by Northampton General Hospital, this clinic functions daily at Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford, and is doing excellent work.

6. Wolverton Diagnostic Clinic.

This clinic, administered by the Northampton General Hospital, is situated at The Meacham Clinic and is attended at various times during the week by Specialists from Northampton.

7. Dental Clinic.

Administered by the County Council, this clinic is located at Wolverton and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

8. Nursing Facilities.

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their excellent and noble work.

9. Health Visiting.

The whole time Health Visitors are doing excellent work in this area.

10. Home Helps Service.

This service, administered by the County Council with the assistance of the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 256 cases were assisted during the year.

11. Hospital Services.

The majority of cases are sent to the Northampton Group of Hospitals, but some are also admitted to the Aylesbury and Oxford Groups.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water is obtained from two sources of supply; one of these is a bore situate at Calverton Road and water is extracted and distributed under the direct control of the Council. The other supplies are from the Bucks Water Board, who supply water in bulk, the Council being the distributors.

Water is regularly sampled and taken to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination.

A total of 85 samples were so submitted, this total including samples of water taken from wells situate in the district, from which persons, for one reason or another, make use of, although a mains supply is available for consumption. Every sample of water from the mains supply was reported by the Analyst to be 'very satisfactory'. The 10 samples of water taken from wells in every case indicated that the water was subject to some degree of pollution.

There have been complaints of the unpalatability of water supplied by the Bucks Water Board, but it is understood that they are now taking steps to carry out works and provide equipment to further treat the water and thus it is hoped to improve the quality.

Details of samples of water submitted for chemical analysis are given below.

| | | | Parts per million | |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------|--|
| | | | Bucks Water Board | Calverton Road Pumping Station Stony Stratford |
| Total Solid Residue | ... | ... | 474.0 | 626.0 |
| Total Chlorine in Chloride | ... | ... | 32.6 | 27.87 |
| Sodium Chloride | ... | ... | 53.69 | 45.79 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia | ... | ... | 0.060 | 0.104 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ... | ... | 0.056 | 0.084 |
| Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate in 3 hrs. at 98°F | | | 6.646 | 0.800 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates | ... | ... | Trace | Trace |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites | ... | ... | Absent | Absent |
| Calcium salts (as Ca CO 3) | ... | ... | 245.0 | 307.0 |
| Magnesium salts (Mg.CO 3) | ... | ... | 34.0 | 42.0 |
| Sulphate (as CO 3) | ... | ... | 98.0 | 120.0 |
| Alkalinity (Ca CO 3) | ... | ... | 210.0 | 260.0 |
| Reaction pH | ... | ... | 8.0 | 7.4 |
| Hardness (Degrees Clarkes Scale) | | | 31.5 | 42.4 |
| Lead and Zinc | ... | ... | Absent | Absent |
| Copper and Iron | ... | ... | Absent | Absent |
| Fluorine | ... | ... | Less than 0.1 | Less than 0.1 |

Public Cleansing.

The collection of house refuse is on a satisfactory basis.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of the Weald of Calverton and the hamlet of Old Wolverton, practically 100% of the houses in Wolverton are on a water carriage system. If improvements which are contemplated are carried out during the coming year it is likely that the figure will improve.

Shops Act 1950 (S.38)

Shops have been inspected for contravention of this Act, and in some instances it has been found necessary to secure compliance of the Act by informal action, but it was not found necessary to take statutory action during the year.

Markets

The market in Wolverton falls far short of what is desirable under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. The owners of the market have been consulted and it is likely that improvements and modernisation will be effected in the coming year.

Smoke Abatement.

The degree of smoke pollution has remained the same during the year, the principle offender being Chimneys under the control of the British Transport Commission. It is understood that the system of heat and power raising is to be improved and modernised.

Swimming Baths.

Once more samples of water were taken from the river and canal at points where both children and adults bathe. The pollution of the water is extremely high and must be regarded as a hazard to health.

During the year small parties of school children again enjoyed the use of the private swimming pool at Mr. Fegan's Home. Samples of this water were regularly submitted for bacteriological examination and once again they were reported to be very satisfactory.

Eradication of Bedbugs.

There have been no cases of bedbug infestation during the year 1957.

Rodent Control.

The work of rodent control and eradication of rats and mice has continued during the year.

It would appear that in some instances the common rat is changing his mode of living, and this is illustrated by the fact that a heavy infestation in agricultural fields occurred during the month of November and necessitated a prolonged treatment to eradicate the infestation.

INSPECTION AND VISITS

Dwellinghouses

Number of Dwellinghouses inspected 1,296

Meat and Other Foods

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----|
| Number of inspections of Butcher Shops | ... | 115 |
| " " " Slaughterhouses | | 220 |
| " " " Meat Distributors Vehicles | | 64 |
| " " " Food Shops | | 612 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders | |
| Number of inspections of Distributors premises . | 21 |
| Number of inspections of Distributors vehicles . | 95 |
| Bake Houses | |
| Number of inspections | 37 |
| Ice Cream Retailers | |
| Number of inspections | 86 |
| Ice Cream Manufacturers | |
| Number of inspections | 25 |
| Factories and Work Shops | |
| Number of inspections | 112 |
| Petroleum Acts and Orders | |
| Number of inspections of premises licensed to store petroleum | 87 |
| Caravan and Moveable Dwellings | |
| Number of inspections of caravans and sites ... | 116 |
| Infectious Diseases | |
| Number of visits of enquiry | 86 |
| Schools | |
| Number of inspections | 16 |

SECTION D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The work of inspection of food premises has been carried on during the year, and it has been found necessary to take both statutory and informal action to secure the remedying of infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Voluntary surrender of food considered unfit for human consumption has continued throughout the year and the largest single condemnation during the year was 150 tins of Dutch Luncheon Meat which was found on examination to be unfit for human consumption and this judgment was confirmed by Laboratory examination.

The food is disposed of at our refuse tip. All tins are opened or pierced and then the contents are burned. This work is always done under supervision to ensure that all unfit food is disposed of.

Ice Cream

There are 35 premises from which ice cream is sold and there is one producer of ice cream. Samples are taken regularly and details are given below of the number and results of these samples.

Ice Cream Sampling

| Number of Samples taken | Grade | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | 52 | 2 | — | — |

Milk

There are five persons carrying on the trade of milk distribution within the district, and of these two are registered dairymen. Samples of milk are taken regularly and the results are given below.

Milk Sampling

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Number of Samples Submitted | Passed | Failed |
| 84 | 84 | — |

Meat

There are three slaughter houses in the area where slaughtering is carried on regularly and all meat for human consumption is inspected. Details of killing and inspection figures are given below, together with percentage figures of condemnation.

**CARCASES and OFFAL INSPECTED and CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

| | Cattle (excluding Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|--|-------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed (if known) ... | 48 | — | 35 | 60 | 74 | — |
| Number inspected ... | 48 | — | 35 | 60 | 74 | — |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 5 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... | 10.5% | — | — | 1.6% | 1.3% | — |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... | — | — | — | — | 2.6% | — |

Cysticercosis

No animals inspected were found to be affected.

SECTION E

Factories Act.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. General

There was a sharp outbreak of measles during June, July and August. Three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in December and were the beginning of a small outbreak which extended into 1958. In all there were 8 confirmed cases in the New Bradwell area.

2. Notifications

| | | | 1956 | | 1957 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | 7 | ... | 26 |
| Measles | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 155 |
| Whooping Cough | | ... | 17 | ... | 5 |
| Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 10 |
| Food Poisoning | ... | ... | — | ... | 1 |
| Para Typhoid Fever | | ... | — | ... | 1 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | | ... | 1 | ... | — |

3. Tuberculosis

Four cases were notified during the year. It is satisfactory to report that there were no deaths.

4. Cancer

There was an increase in deaths from this dread disease during the year. 42 cases were notified as against 30 the previous year. 6 of the deaths were due to cancer of the lungs.

